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**Singapore-Norway links reinforced with NTU-BI agreement to forge regional maritime expertise**

A regional focal point for education in maritime transport, shipping and related disciplines is being forged by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the BI Norwegian School of Management (BI).

The NTU-BI collaboration arose out of a research and development initiative between Norway and Singapore that is supported by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

The two universities are now cooperating:

- to design and disseminate university-level programmes in maritime studies to the region
- to establish a scheme to train academic staff

Much progress has been made.

In July this year, NTU and BI launched the B.Sc and M.Sc in Maritime Studies. The response was overwhelming. After a stringent selection exercise, 53 students were admitted and are now pursuing the B.Sc in Maritime Studies, while 34 students are pursuing the M.Sc programme. Both programmes are jointly taught by NTU and BI.
Both the B.Sc and M.Sc programmes are being marketed by NTU and BI in Asia in a bid to provide higher academic maritime training in the Asian shipping and transport industries. The parties aim to have a good mix of students from Singapore, Norway, China, India and ASEAN attend the B.Sc and M.Sc programmes in the next few years.

With the B.Sc and M.Sc programmes underway, NTU and BI are now exploring offering Ph.D programmes in Maritime Studies. This, they feel, will help create a body of knowledge, and a pool of expertise for the Asian maritime industry, from which academic staff members for maritime studies programmes can be drawn.

Says Ms Cathrine Bjune, Director, BI, “BI appreciates working with NTU, a well recognised university. It is also good for Norway and Singapore to cooperate on shipping issues, as this is a key area for both countries. Sharing our knowledge and expertise will be of mutual benefit. BI looks forward to extending the cooperation into the future.”

Adds Prof Cheong Hee Kiat, Deputy President of NTU and Dean of NTU’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, “NTU looks forward to providing a focal point in Asia for maritime studies in collaboration with BI, to help enhance the competitiveness of the maritime and transport industries in Singapore and Asia. The collaboration is a potent synergy of NTU’s forte in engineering and business education and BI’s expertise in shipping management.”

To formally acknowledge their working relationship, NTU and BI signed an Agreement of Cooperation on 29 October 2004. Prof Cheong signed on behalf of NTU while Ms Bjune signed on behalf of BI. The signing was witnessed by Mr Børge Brende, Norwegian Minister for Trade and Industry and Mr Peter Ong, Permanent Secretary of Singapore’s Ministry of Transport, and Chairman, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore.

The agreement is the third for both NTU and BI. In 1999, NTU and BI signed an agreement to set up a study programme for students. In 1997, NTU and BI signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a partnership for the exchange of students.

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About the BI Norwegian School of Management

BI Norwegian School of Management is the largest business school in Norway as well as in Europe, with more than 19,500 students. It has an international student body of more than 30 nationalities. BI is a private foundation founded in 1943. The main campus is in Oslo. BI offers research based studies at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as doctoral programmes. Programmes
are both full time and part time. We also have internet-based courses. BI develops and promotes competence contributing to value creation and entrepreneurship in the private and public sectors. It is the largest provider of education and competence to business and industry in Norway. The concept of life long learning is one of BI’s main ideas. It is a top ranking research institution with 360 faculty members. BI was the first foreign university entitled to offer degree programmes in China and has exchange programmes with more than 23 universities world wide.

For more information, visit www.bi.no/.

About Nanyang Technological University

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

With an international faculty of over 1,500 and an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000, NTU positions itself as a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission of Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond.

NTU is on its way to becoming a comprehensive university by 2005 with the setting up of three new Schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Art, Design and Media, and the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences. The university offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:

1. College of Engineering, which consists of five schools:
   - Civil and Environmental Engineering
   - Computer Engineering
   - Electrical and Electronic Engineering
   - Materials Engineering
   - Mechanical and Production Engineering
2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information
5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media (to be established by 2005)
7. School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (to be established by 2005)

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/.